

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **REP. PERRY E. THURSTON, JR. TO LEAD HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS IN 2012-14 TERM**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** -- Members of the Florida House Democratic Caucus today elected Representative Perry E. Thurston, Jr. of Plantation to serve as the Democratic leader for the 2012-2014 legislative term.

By formally designating Representative Thurston as the Democratic nominee for Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives in the 2012-14 term, the 39 members of the Democratic caucus have picked the legislator from House District 93 to succeed Rep. Ron Saunders as the Democratic leader.

“I am humbled by the vote of confidence from you, my colleagues,” Representative Thurston said immediately after the vote, which was held in the House Minority Office conference room in the Florida Capitol. “In the coming months, we will work as a united caucus to offer common-sense solutions to the challenges Floridians continue to face. We will be the loyal opposition that respects the institution, but we will be forceful with our voice for policies that protect middle-class families, the state’s public education system and our dedicated public employees.”

Representative Thurston is a third-generation Floridian and a graduate of Broward County Public Schools and Morehouse College. He attended the University of Miami’s School of Law, where he earned a Jurist Doctorate degree in 1987. He joined the Broward County Public Defender’s Office in 1988 as an assistant public defender. He moved into private practice in 1992, specializing in criminal defense and public finance.

Representative Thurston was first elected to the House District 93 seat in 2006. He was reelected in 2008 and 2010. He is married to the former Dawn Board. He and his wife have two children, Alison Thurston and Perry E. Thurston, III (Trey).

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